



August / September / October 2013

The Dredging *Link*

Masonville Cove is Nation's First Urban Wildlife Refuge Partnership

On September 26, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service designated Masonville Cove as the nation's first "Urban Wildlife Refuge Partnership."

The goal of this new initiative is to bring wildlife closer to where most Americans live — in urban areas.

"It is not every day you can improve the environment, provide a great resource for entertainment and education for the community, and make key investments to spur more business for the Port of Baltimore," said Maryland Transportation Secretary James T. Smith, Jr. "But that is exactly what Masonville does."

"Masonville Cove is one of Baltimore's great success stories," said U.S. Representative John Sarbanes (MD). "With its designation as the nation's first Urban Wildlife Refuge Partnership, it has become an American success story."

The Masonville Cove nature area opened in 2012 on a restored site owned by the Maryland Port Administration on the Patapsco River, allowing public access to the cove for the first time in over 70 years. The nature area offers opportunities within the city limits for walking, fishing, bird watching and other recreational activities.

The area once served a population of Baltimoreans who lived near the cove and worked in shipping-related industries nearby. The construction of the Harbor Tunnel and the highways serving it left the cove cut off from nearby neighborhoods. Eleven acres of the nature area are currently open to the public. Fifty-two acres will be open when restoration is complete.

In 2003, the Port Administration's Harbor Team recommended Masonville as a potential dredged material placement site. As the project progressed, the Port Administration agreed to not only clean up and restore the cove for public use, but to build a state-of-the-art environmental center, which opened in 2009.

So far, the Port Administration has removed 61,000 tons of debris from the cove and surrounding land. It also removed derelict ships and restored acres of land that did not meet state clean-up standards.



Baltimore youth help celebrate the new Urban Wildlife Refuge Partnership at Masonville Cove. Photo/Bill McAllen.

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Frank Hamons to Retire from MPA

November 1 marks the end of an era at the Maryland Port Administration. On this date, Frank Hamons, Deputy Director for Harbor Development, will retire.

Frank has been with the Port Administration for 34 years. During that time, he has overseen a long period of remarkable growth, including major projects such as dredging the 50-foot channel and the construction of dredged material containment facilities at Hart-Miller Island, Poplar Island, Cox Creek, and Masonville.

Frank plans to attend the annual meeting of the Dredged Material Management Program on November 13, to say farewell and thank committee members who have dedicated their time to the process.



Masonville Cove Refuge Continued...

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, and Chesapeake Bay Trust will dedicate a total of \$55,000 to support the Urban Wildlife Refuge Partnership.

To learn more, see the recent article in the September issue of the Chesapeake Bay Journal at www.bayjournal.com.

Masonville Cove Hosts "Fishing in Schools"



Debbie Woolley of Benjamin Franklin High School shows off her practice "catch." Photo/USFW.

This fall, students in five Maryland schools will get an introduction to flyfishing, thanks to teachers who practiced their own casting skills last June at Masonville Cove.

The teachers and interns — one of whom caught four fish from the Masonville shoreline — were participants in a two-day training course for the National Fishing in Schools program. The program uses flyfishing to teach both science and physical education, while encouraging students to have fun outdoors.

The Masonville Cove Partnership and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Chesapeake Bay Field Office brought the program to Baltimore. Teachers hailed from the Benjamin Franklin High School, City Neighbors Charter School, Old Mill High School, Dundalk Middle School, and Broadneck High School.

Benjamin Franklin High School hosted the indoor portion of the training, during which teachers received classroom curriculum and a set of ten fly rods and casting targets. The second day of training gave them a chance to practice their skills in a field setting — in this case, at Masonville Cove.

Debbie Woolley of Benjamin Franklin High School said it was the best professional development program she has ever attended.

"Not only was it an enjoyable experience, I learned a great deal of information," Woolley said. "It's easy to see many opportunities to share what we have learned through multiple academics beyond gym and environmental science."

DMMP Annual Meeting in November

The Dredged Material Management Program of the Maryland Port Administration will hold its annual meeting on November 13 from 10 a.m. to 12 noon at the Cruise Maryland Terminal, 2001 East McComas Street, Baltimore, MD 21230.

The annual meeting brings together all of the participants in the Port Administration's dredging program — advisory committees, technical consultants, and agency partners — to review the year's progress and set goals for the coming year.

The meeting also provides a unique opportunity to gain an overview of the program and network with some of the many interest groups, community representatives, technical experts, and staff who ensure that Maryland has adequate capacity to manage the dredged material resulting from its annual maintenance dredging program.

The meeting is free and open to the public. However, since this at a terminal facility RSVP's must be submitted by November 11th. To register, contact Margie Hamby at mhamby@marylandports.com or 410-385-4419.